General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 February 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 21 (*c*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.51 and Add.1)*]

57/147. Assistance to the Palestinian people

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/111 of 14 December 2001, as well as previous resolutions on the question,

Recalling also the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,[1] and the subsequent implementation agreements concluded by the two sides,

Gravely concerned at the deterioration in the living conditions of the Palestinian people throughout the occupied territory, which constitutes a mounting humanitarian crisis,

Conscious of the urgent need for improvement in the economic and social infrastructure of the occupied territory,

Aware that development is difficult under occupation and is best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

Noting the great economic and social challenges facing the Palestinian people and their leadership,

Conscious of the urgent necessity for international assistance to the Palestinian people, taking into account the Palestinian priorities,

Noting the convening of the United Nations seminar on assistance to the Palestinian people, held in Vienna on 20 and 21 February 2001, to review the state of the Palestinian economy,[2]

Stressing the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the process of building Palestinian institutions and in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people, and welcoming in this regard the establishment by the Quartet of the Task Force on Palestinian Reform,

---

[1] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

[2] See A/56/89-E/2001/89, annex.

Noting the appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority,

Welcoming the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, the establishment of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee and the work being done by the World Bank as its secretariat and the establishment of the Consultative Group, as well as all follow-up meetings and international mechanisms established to provide assistance to the Palestinian people,

Welcoming also the work of the Joint Liaison Committee, which provides a forum in which economic policy and practical matters related to donor assistance are discussed with the Palestinian Authority,

Stressing the continued importance of the work of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee in the coordination of assistance to the Palestinian people,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[3]

Expressing grave concern at the continuation of the recent tragic and violent events that have led to many deaths and injuries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Personal Humanitarian Envoy of the Secretary-General on the humanitarian conditions and needs of the Palestinian people;[4]

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his rapid response and efforts regarding assistance to the Palestinian people;

4. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the work of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority and of the steps taken under the auspices of the Secretary-General to ensure the achievement of a coordinated mechanism for United Nations activities throughout the occupied territories;

6. *Urges* Member States, international financial institutions of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and regional and interregional organizations to extend, as rapidly and as generously as possible, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people, in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and through official Palestinian institutions;

7. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to intensify their assistance in response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian people in accordance with Palestinian priorities set forth by the Palestinian Authority;

---

[3] A/57/130-E/2002/79.

[4] Available on the Internet at http://domino.un.org/bertini_rpt.htm.

8. *Urges* Member States to open their markets to exports of Palestinian products on the most favourable terms, consistent with appropriate trading rules, and to implement fully existing trade and cooperation agreements;

9. *Calls upon* the international donor community to expedite the delivery of pledged assistance to the Palestinian people to meet their urgent needs;

10. *Stresses* in this context the importance of ensuring the free passage of aid to the Palestinian people and the free movement of persons and goods;

11. *Urges* the international donor community, United Nations agencies and organizations and non-governmental organizations to extend as rapidly as possible emergency economic and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people to counter the impact of the current crisis;

12. *Stresses* the need to implement the Paris Protocol on Economic Relations of 29 April 1994, fifth annex to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, signed in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,[5] in particular with regard to the full and prompt clearance of Palestinian indirect tax revenues;

13. *Suggests* the convening in 2003 of a United Nations-sponsored seminar on assistance to the Palestinian people;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, containing:

(*a*) An assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people;

(*b*) An assessment of the needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding effectively to them;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people".

75th plenary meeting
16 December 2002

[5] A/51/889-S/1997/357, annex.

United Nations A/RES/57/148

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 February 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 21 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.54 and Add.1)*]

57/148. Humanitarian assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, and reaffirming that humanitarian assistance should be provided in accordance with the guiding principles contained in the annex to that resolution,

Recalling also its resolutions 54/96 F of 15 December 1999, 55/169 of 14 December 2000 and 56/101 of 14 December 2001, concerning humanitarian assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

Deeply appreciative of the humanitarian assistance and the rehabilitation support rendered by a number of States, in particular major contributors, international agencies and organizations and non-governmental organizations to alleviate the humanitarian needs of the affected population in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in particular emergency assistance provided by the European Union and various countries,

Recognizing the role of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe and the stabilization and association process for the western Balkans in assisting the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in its efforts in further promoting democratic and economic reforms and in intensifying regional cooperation,

Deeply appreciative of the humanitarian assistance given to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia through the United Nations consolidated inter-agency appeal for South-Eastern Europe, and the humanitarian assistance provided by many Member States outside the framework of the consolidated appeal, through non-governmental organizations, regional organizations and initiatives and bilateral channels,

Welcoming the fact that, at the donor conference hosted jointly by the World Bank and the European Commission in Brussels on 29 June 2001, the programme for reform and development of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia received strong support and confirmed that meeting the basic needs of vulnerable groups within the refugee, displaced and resident population remains a priority for humanitarian agencies,

Concerned at the continued urgency of the humanitarian situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, aware of the magnitude of the humanitarian requirements of major parts of the population, and recognizing the need to ensure effective links between relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development efforts in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

Aware of the weakness of the economy and basic services, which exacerbates further the situation of socially and economically vulnerable segments of the population, including refugees and internally displaced persons, and which is coupled with limited basic social services capacity, especially in the health sector,

Acknowledging that a large number of refugees and internally displaced persons remain in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and that assistance requirements will include local integration, whenever refugees and internally displaced persons are not willing to return to their places of origin,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Taking note also of the reports on the humanitarian situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia prepared by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat in Belgrade,[2]

Recognizing the role of the United Nations in helping the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to resolve the humanitarian problems that confront it and in coordinating the efforts of the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to the country,

Acknowledging the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in completing the National Strategy for Resolving Problems of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and international support for developing a poverty reduction strategy and a Roma integration strategy in 2002,

Recognizing a decrease in humanitarian assistance in 2002 due to a shift in donor funding which is progressively being reoriented to longer-term development assistance and the developments in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia towards stabilization, transition and development programmes,

1. *Calls upon* all States, regional organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to alleviate the humanitarian needs of the vulnerable refugees and internally displaced persons, bearing in mind in particular the special situation of women, children, the elderly and other vulnerable groups, while seeking durable solutions for a safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their places of origin, or for settlement at their place of refuge for those who want to integrate locally, in cooperation with the local authorities;

2. *Also calls upon* all States, regional organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies to offer support to the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in its efforts to ensure the

[1] A/57/174.

[2] See www.reliefweb.int.

transition from relief to the long-term goals of the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of the country;

3. *Welcomes* the continued commitment of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and encourages it to cooperate further with the United Nations system and humanitarian organizations to address the humanitarian needs of the affected population, including refugees and internally displaced persons, and urges the relevant authorities and the international community to support programmes that will ensure that the humanitarian needs of the vulnerable refugees and internally displaced persons in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are met and to pursue durable solutions to their plight, in particular voluntary repatriation and reintegration, stresses the need to create conditions that are conducive to their safe return, and emphasizes in this regard the importance of regional cooperation in the search for solutions to the plight of refugees;

4. *Calls upon* all Member States and international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to assist financially and otherwise in the establishment of durable solutions for the refugees and internally displaced persons, inter alia, through the implementation of the National Strategy for Resolving Problems of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

5. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, as well as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other agencies, to continue to mobilize the timely provision of international humanitarian and development assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

6. *Recognizes* that there will be no United Nations consolidated humanitarian appeal for 2003 and nevertheless emphasizes the importance of the coordination of humanitarian assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, inter alia, through the mechanisms of the United Nations resident coordinator system;

7. *Requests* the United Nations and the specialized agencies to continue their efforts to assess the humanitarian needs, in cooperation with the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, relevant international and regional organizations and bodies and interested States, with a view to ensuring effective links between relief and longer-term assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, taking into account the work already carried out in this field and the need to avoid duplication and the overlapping of efforts;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance", a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

75th plenary meeting
16 December 2002

United Nations A/RES/57/149

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 February 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 21 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.57 and Add.1)*]

57/149. Emergency humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia

The General Assembly,

Noting with concern the recurrent drought that affects Ethiopia, and its consequences,

Recalling the initiative of the Secretary-General of 13 September 2000 to improve food security in the Horn of Africa over the long term,

Gravely concerned at the magnitude of the current drought, which may affect up to fifteen million people owing to the serious crop failures in drought-prone parts of the country that have weak infrastructures and low development capacities,

Bearing in mind the 2003 appeal for emergency assistance for Ethiopia, launched on 6 December 2002 by the United Nations and the Government of Ethiopia, to respond to the looming famine situation and to prevent the imminent humanitarian crisis,

Noting with serious concern the dire humanitarian situation and its long-term socio-economic and environmental impact,

Emphasizing the need to address the crisis bearing in mind the importance of the transition from relief to development, and acknowledging the underlying structural causes for the recurrent famine in Ethiopia,

Recognizing that the main responsibility for improving the humanitarian situation and creating conditions for long-term development lies with the Government of Ethiopia, while bearing in mind the important role played by the international community,

1. *Calls upon* the international community to urgently and effectively respond to the unfolding and imminent humanitarian crisis, which may affect up to fifteen million people in the country, consisting of crop producers and pastoralists;

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Ethiopia, the international community and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to strengthen mechanisms already in place to respond to such emergency situations;

3. *Also welcomes* the initiative of the Secretary-General to tackle the recurrent drought in the country on a long-term basis, and in this regard calls for its serious consideration by the relevant organizations;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to respond as a matter of urgency to the crisis, based on the requirements of the 2003 appeal for emergency assistance for Ethiopia covering food and non-food needs, as well as to the urgent needs of programme interventions in early 2003, addressing issues of recovery, asset protection and the sustainable development of the chronically affected areas;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Ethiopia to increase the availability of food through domestic production, to ensure access to food for households in need and to strengthen emergency response capabilities;

6. *Invites* the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to continue considering ways to enhance the mobilization of emergency relief assistance for Ethiopia;

7. *Calls upon* all development partners to stress the need to integrate relief efforts with recovery, asset protection and long-term development and to address the underlying structural causes for the recurrent famine in Ethiopia, inter alia, in line with the poverty reduction strategy paper, including strategies aimed at preventing such crises in the future and that improve the resilience of the population;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

75th plenary meeting
16 December 2002

United Nations A/RES/57/150

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 February 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 21 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.60 and Add.1)*]

57/150. Strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, the annex to which contains the guiding principles for strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system, and its resolutions 54/233 of 22 December 1999, 55/163 of 14 December 2000, 56/103 of 14 December 2001 and 56/195 of 21 December 2001, and recalling agreed conclusions 1998/1[1] and 1999/1[2] of the Economic and Social Council and Council resolution 2002/32 of 26 July 2002,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development,[3]

Deeply concerned by the increasing number and scale of disasters, resulting in massive losses of life and property worldwide, as well as their long-term consequences, especially severe for developing countries,

Reaffirming that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States must be fully respected in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and, in this context, humanitarian assistance should be provided with the consent of the affected country and, in principle, on the basis of an appeal by the affected country,

Reaffirming also that each State has the responsibility first and foremost to take care of the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies occurring on its territory and, hence, the affected State has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory,

Recognizing the importance of the principles of neutrality, humanity and impartiality for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

---

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (A/53/3 and Corr.1), chap. VII, para. 5.

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3/Rev.1), chap. VI, para. 5.

[3] A/57/578.

Emphasizing the responsibility of all States to undertake disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts in order to minimize the impact of disasters,

Noting the critical role played by local rescuers in natural disaster response as well as existing in-country capacities,

Emphasizing the importance of timely, coordinated and technically sound international assistance provided in close coordination with the receiving State, in particular in the field of urban search and rescue following earthquakes and other events resulting in structural collapse,

Noting with appreciation, in this respect, the important contribution made by international urban search and rescue teams in the aftermath of disasters, which has helped to reduce loss of life and human suffering,

Commending the work of the United Nations Disaster Assistance and Coordination teams in facilitating rapid need assessments and assisting Member States to organize the on-site coordination of international urban search and rescue operations,

Concerned at the procedural requirements applicable to the movement of foreign nationals and equipment to and within a country that may impinge on the timely acceptance, deployment to the disaster site and activities of international urban search and rescue teams,

Also concerned that an additional burden may be placed on the resources of the affected countries by those international urban search and rescue teams which are inadequately trained or equipped,

Noting the efforts made by Member States, facilitated by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of international urban search and rescue assistance,

Noting also that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is identifying the current state of international law relating to disaster response for a report to be submitted to States and national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in December 2003, and emphasizing the need for intergovernmental oversight of this process, particularly with regard to its principles, scope and objectives,

Recognizing, in this regard, the Guidelines developed by the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, as a flexible and helpful reference tool for disaster preparedness and response efforts,

1. *Stresses* the need to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of international urban search and rescue assistance, with the aim of contributing towards saving more human lives;

2. *Encourages* efforts aiming at the strengthening of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group and its regional groups, particularly through the participation in its activities of representatives from a larger number of countries;

3. *Urges* all States, consistent with their applicable measures relating to public safety and national security, to simplify or reduce, as appropriate, the customs and administrative procedures related to the entry, transit, stay and exit of international urban search and rescue teams and their equipment and materials, taking into account the Guidelines of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, particularly concerning visas for the rescuers and the quarantining of their

animals, the utilization of air space and the import of search and rescue and technical communications equipment, necessary drugs and other relevant materials;

4. *Also urges* all States to undertake measures to ensure the safety and security of international urban search and rescue teams operating in their territory;

5. *Further urges* all States that have the capacity to provide international urban search and rescue assistance to take the necessary measures to ensure that international urban search and rescue teams under their responsibility are deployed and operate in accordance with internationally developed standards as specified in the Guidelines of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, particularly concerning timely deployment, self-sufficiency, training, operating procedures and equipment, and cultural awareness;

6. *Reaffirms* the leadership role of the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator in supporting the authorities of the affected State, upon their request, in coordinating multilateral assistance in the aftermath of disasters;

7. *Encourages* the strengthening of cooperation among States at the regional and subregional levels in the field of disaster preparedness and response, with particular respect to capacity-building at all levels;

8. *Encourages* Member States, with the facilitation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and in cooperation with the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, to continue efforts to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of international urban search and rescue assistance, including the further development of common standards;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, a comprehensive, updated report with recommendations on progress in the improvement of efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of international urban search and rescue assistance, taking into account the extent of utilization of the Guidelines of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group.

75th plenary meeting
16 December 2002

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 February 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 21 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.62 and Add.1)*]

57/151. Assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/232 of 21 December 1990, 46/147 of 17 December 1991, 47/154 of 18 December 1992, 48/197 of 21 December 1993, 49/21 E of 20 December 1994, 50/58 A of 12 December 1995, 51/30 B of 5 December 1996, 52/169 E of 16 December 1997, 53/1 I of 16 November 1998 and 55/176 of 19 December 2000,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Commending the Economic Community of West African States and the United Nations for their collaborative efforts with the Government of Liberia in its peace-building objectives,

Emphasizing its great concern over the grave humanitarian and security situation prevailing in Liberia, which holds serious implications for security in the subregion,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Economic Community of West African States and non-governmental organizations for their valuable support in the provision of humanitarian assistance and their adoption of a comprehensive approach to peace-building in Liberia and the subregion;

2. *Calls upon* all parties involved in the ongoing conflict to respect fully the provisions of international humanitarian law and, in this regard, to ensure safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel to all affected populations throughout the territory of Liberia and the safety of United Nations and humanitarian personnel;

3. *Expresses its gratitude* to all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their assistance and support for the peace-building process in Liberia, and urges that such assistance be continued;

[1] A/57/301.

4. *Invites* all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide assistance, as appropriate, to Liberia to facilitate the creation of an enabling environment for the promotion of peace, regional security and socio-economic development;

5. *Urges* the Government of Liberia to provide an enabling environment for the promotion of socio-economic development and a culture of sustained peace in the country, including a commitment to upholding the rule of law, national reconciliation and human rights, establishing inclusive processes that will ensure free and fair presidential and general elections in October 2003 and encourage maximum participation, to contribute to reducing tension and promoting sustainable and peaceful political development in the subregion;

6. *Urges* the Government of Liberia, the United Nations system and all States to strengthen their commitment in responding to the humanitarian needs of the Liberian people;

7. *Renews its appeal* to the Government of Liberia to cooperate with the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other organizations in addressing the need for rehabilitation and reconstruction, and stresses the need for the Government of Liberia to assist and protect the civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons, regardless of their origin;

8. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his continuing efforts to mobilize international assistance for the development and reconstruction of Liberia, and requests him to continue his efforts to mobilize all possible assistance within the United Nations system to help in the reconstruction and development of Liberia, including the return and reintegration of refugees, displaced persons and demobilized soldiers;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to consider at its fifty-ninth session the question of international assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia.

75th plenary meeting
16 December 2002

United Nations A/RES/57/152

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 March 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 21 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.63 and Add.1)*]

57/152. International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, the annex to which contains the guiding principles for the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system, and its resolutions 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, 54/219 and 54/233 of 22 December 1999, 55/163 of 14 December 2000 and 56/103 of 14 December 2001, and recalling agreed conclusions 1999/1 of the Economic and Social Council[1] and Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2002/32 of 26 July 2002,

Recognizing the importance of the principles of neutrality, humanity and impartiality for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Emphasizing that the affected State has the primary responsibility in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory, and in the facilitation of the work of humanitarian organizations in mitigating the consequences of natural disasters,

Emphasizing also the responsibility of all States to undertake disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts in order to minimize the impact of natural disasters,

Welcoming the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,

Stressing that national authorities need to enhance the resilience of populations to disasters through implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction so as to reduce risks to people, their livelihoods, the social and economic infrastructure and environmental resources,

Welcoming the efforts of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen the coordination of their activities in the field of disaster prevention, mitigation and management,

---

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3/Rev.1), chap. VI, para. 5.

Emphasizing the importance of raising awareness among developing countries of the capacities existing at the national, regional and international levels that could be deployed to assist them,

Emphasizing also the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of the affected States in dealing with natural disasters in all their phases, including prevention, preparedness, mitigation and recovery and reconstruction, and of strengthening the response capacity of affected countries,

Welcoming the efforts of Member States, with facilitation by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and in cooperation with the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of international urban search and rescue assistance, and in this context noting its resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002 entitled "Strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance",

Mindful of the effects that shortfalls in resources can have on the preparedness for and response to natural disasters,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development"[2] and "Strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations";[3]

2. *Expresses its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact, resulting in massive losses of life and property worldwide, in particular in vulnerable societies lacking adequate capacity to mitigate effectively the long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences of natural disasters;

3. *Calls upon* all States to adopt, where required, and to continue to implement effectively necessary legislative and other appropriate measures to mitigate the effects of natural disasters, inter alia, by disaster prevention, including building regulations and appropriate land use, as well as disaster preparedness and capacity-building in disaster response and mitigation, and requests the international community to continue to assist developing countries, as appropriate, in this regard;

4. *Stresses*, in this context, the importance of strengthening international cooperation, particularly through the effective use of multilateral mechanisms, in the provision of humanitarian assistance for all phases of a disaster, from relief and mitigation to development, including through the provision of adequate resources;

5. *Also stresses* that humanitarian assistance for natural disasters should be provided in accordance with and with due respect for the guiding principles contained in the annex to resolution 46/182 and should be determined on the basis of the human dimension and needs arising out of the particular natural disasters;

6. *Recognizes* that economic growth and sustainable development contribute to improving the capacity of States to mitigate, respond to and prepare for natural disasters;

7. *Reaffirms* that disaster risk analysis and vulnerability reduction form an integral part of sustainable development strategies and need to be considered in

---

[2] A/57/578.

[3] A/57/77-E/2002/63.

development plans of all vulnerable countries and communities, including, where appropriate, in plans relating to the transition from relief to development, and also affirms that within such preventive strategies, disaster preparedness and early warning systems must be further strengthened at the country and regional levels, inter alia, through better coordination among relevant United Nations bodies and cooperation with Governments of affected countries and regional and other relevant organizations with the aim of maximizing the effectiveness of natural disaster response and reducing the impact of natural disasters, particularly in developing countries;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of enhanced international cooperation, including with the United Nations and regional organizations, to assist developing countries in their efforts to build capacities and to predict, prepare for and respond to natural disasters;

9. *Stresses* the need for partnership among Governments of the affected countries, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant humanitarian organizations and specialized companies to promote training to strengthen preparedness for and response to natural disasters;

10. *Also stresses* the need to promote the access to and transfer of technology related to early warning systems and to mitigation programmes to developing countries affected by natural disasters;

11. *Encourages* the further use of space-based and ground-based remote-sensing technologies for the prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters, where appropriate;

12. *Also encourages* in such operations the sharing of geographical data, including remotely sensed images and geographic information system and global positioning system data among Governments, space agencies and relevant international humanitarian organizations, as appropriate, and also notes in that context initiatives such as those undertaken by the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters and the Global Disaster Information Network;

13. *Stresses* that particular international cooperation efforts should be undertaken to enhance and broaden further the utilization of national and local capacities and, where appropriate, regional and subregional capacities of developing countries for disaster preparedness and response, which may be made available in closer proximity to the site of a disaster, more efficiently and at lower cost;

14. *Welcomes* the role of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as the focal point within the overall United Nations system for the promotion and coordination of disaster response among the United Nations humanitarian agencies and other humanitarian partners;

15. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the positions of regional disaster response advisers by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, as well as the initiative of the United Nations Development Programme to establish regional disaster reduction adviser positions, and encourages the further development of these initiatives in a coordinated and complementary manner in order to assist developing countries in capacity-building for disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response;

16. *Encourages* further cooperation between the United Nations system and regional organizations in order to increase the capacity of these organizations to respond to natural disasters;

17. *Encourages* States that have not signed or ratified the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, adopted at Tampere, Finland, on 18 June 1998, to consider doing so;

18. *Invites* the United Nations system to explore further the concept of transitional recovery teams for providing assistance for bridging relief assistance and development cooperation;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with relevant organizations and partners, to continue progress on compiling a directory of disaster mitigation capacity at the national, regional and international levels as well as the Directory of Advanced Technologies for Disaster Response as a new part of the Central Register of Disaster Management Capacities;[4]

20. *Welcomes* the global review of disaster reduction initiatives coordinated by the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and emphasizes the importance of periodic review as a means of discussing disaster trends, assessing policies aimed at mitigating the impact of disaster and offering examples of successful initiatives;

21. *Encourages* donors to consider the importance of ensuring that assistance in the case of higher-profile natural disasters does not come at the expense of those that may have a relatively lower profile, bearing in mind that the allocation of resources should be driven by needs, as well as the importance of making efforts to increase the level of assistance for disaster reduction and preparedness programmes and for disaster response and mitigation activities;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine the overall situation regarding the mobilization of resources for response to natural disasters and to consider concrete recommendations to improve the international response to natural disasters, as necessary, based on his examination, keeping in mind also the need to address any geographical and sectoral imbalances and shortfalls in such responses, where they exist, as well as the more effective use of national emergency response agencies, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

75th plenary meeting
16 December 2002

[4] www.reliefweb.int/ocha_ol/programs/response/register.html.

United Nations A/RES/57/153

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 March 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 21 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.64 and Add.1)*]

57/153. Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Taking note also of the note by the Secretary-General on enhancing the functioning and utilization of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund,[2] submitted pursuant to resolution 56/107 of 14 December 2001,

Stressing the need to address further the issues of funding, coordination and strategic planning in the context of natural disasters and complex emergencies, in particular in the transition from relief to development activities,

Deeply concerned about the aggravating effects that major diseases, in particular the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic, cause in the context of natural disasters and complex emergencies,

Concerned at the need to mobilize adequate levels of financing for emergency humanitarian assistance,

Noting with interest the efforts of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to develop the Plan of Action on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises,

Welcoming the efforts of Member States, with the facilitation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and in cooperation with the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of international urban search and rescue assistance,

[1] A/57/77-E/2002/63.
[2] A/57/613.

and recalling its resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002, entitled "Strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance",

1. *Welcomes* the outcome of the fifth humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council during its substantive session of 2002;

2. *Also welcomes* the progress made by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the discussion of humanitarian policies and activities in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

4. *Calls upon* relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other relevant international organizations, Governments and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with the Secretary-General and the Emergency Relief Coordinator to ensure timely implementation of and follow-up to resolutions and agreed conclusions of the humanitarian affairs segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council;

5. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to continue to consider ways to enhance further the humanitarian affairs segment of the future sessions of the Council, including through the adoption of negotiated outcomes of its deliberations;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to inform Governments regularly about the use of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the utilization of the Fund;

7. *Calls upon* the relevant humanitarian and development organizations of the United Nations system, other relevant international organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions, Governments and non-governmental organizations to review and work towards greater alignment of their planning and resource mobilization tools so as to facilitate the transition from relief to development, and to report to the Secretary-General on actions taken in this respect;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to address, as appropriate and in collaboration with relevant actors, in particular the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, ways and means of strengthening the humanitarian response and for the mobilization of greater resources in connection with emergency humanitarian assistance in areas with a high prevalence of major diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, taking into account the impacts of major diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, on vulnerable communities and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[3] and to report on actions taken in this respect;

9. *Stresses* the importance of the timely implementation of the Plan of Action on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and urges the Standing Committee to continue to refine the Plan and follow-up activities consistent with experience gained at the field level;

10. *Commends* the Emergency Relief Coordinator and his staff for their activities in emergency information management, and stresses that there is a need for national authorities, relief agencies and other relevant actors to continue to improve the sharing of relevant information related to natural disasters and complex

[3] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

emergencies, including on disaster response and mitigation, and to take full advantage of United Nations emergency information services, such as ReliefWeb and the Integrated Regional Information Network;

11. *Emphasizes* that coordination of humanitarian assistance within the United Nations system is a mandate of the Secretary-General, as reflected in resolution 46/182, and that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs should benefit from adequate and more predictable funding, and requests the Secretary-General to report on the progress made in this regard;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2003, on the progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, including the implementation of and follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/32 of 26 July 2002 and the present resolution.

75th plenary meeting
16 December 2002

United Nations A/RES/57/154

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 March 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 21 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.65 and Add.1)*]

57/154. Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/160 of 18 December 1992 and subsequent relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 56/106 of 14 December 2001,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 733 (1992) of 23 January 1992 and subsequent relevant resolutions, in which the Council, inter alia, urged all parties, movements and factions in Somalia to facilitate the efforts of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and humanitarian organizations to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected population in Somalia, and reiterated the call for the full respect of the security and safety of the personnel of those organizations and guarantee of their complete freedom of movement in and around Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia,

Recalling further statements by the President of the Security Council of 31 October 2001[1] and 28 March 2002,[2] by which the Security Council condemned attacks on humanitarian personnel and called upon all parties in Somalia to respect fully the security and safety of personnel of the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations, and to guarantee their complete freedom of movement and access throughout Somalia,

Affirming its continuing support for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development resolutions of 24 November 2000 and 11 January 2002, which provide a general framework for the Somali reconciliation process,

Welcoming in that regard the Declaration on Cessation of Hostilities and the Structures and Principles of the Somalia National Reconciliation Process, adopted in Eldoret, Kenya, on 27 October 2002[3] by the various Somali parties, including the Transitional National Government, which represents a fundamental step that will ensure a wider consensual basis for further participation and peace,

[1] S/PRST/2001/30.
[2] S/PRST/2002/8.
[3] S/2002/1359, annex.

Also welcoming the launch of the six working committees to address the core issues of the peace process,

Noting the linkage between the search for peace and alleviation of the humanitarian crisis in Somalia,

Firmly supporting the initiative sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development for national reconciliation in Somalia, reiterating its strong support for the national reconciliation process and the ongoing peace conference being held in Eldoret, and urging all parties throughout Somalia to participate in the process, in accordance with the framework established by the Intergovernmental Authority,

Recalling its firm support for the peace and reconciliation process sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development for Somalia and for the efforts of its Technical Committee, comprising the frontline States of Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti, and coordinated by Kenya, for its role in facilitating the process,

Noting the cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union the League of Arab States, the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and its Partners Forum, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and others in their efforts to resolve the humanitarian, security and political crisis in Somalia, and bearing in mind the respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Somalia,

Noting with concern the prevailing serious drought situation in the Horn of Africa, in particular the affected areas of Somalia,

Noting with grave concern the dire humanitarian situation that the Somali people face and the urgent need for humanitarian assistance and relief,

Noting with appreciation the continued efforts made by the Secretary-General to assist the Somali people in their efforts to promote stability, peace and national reconciliation, and underlining its strong resolve to support in a practical manner the United Nations system in its incremental approach to peace-building and targeted assistance, focused on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructure and on sustainable community-based activities,

Welcoming the continued focus of the United Nations, in partnership with civil society at the grass-roots level, on programmes of assistance, including both humanitarian and development approaches, taking into consideration the conditions on the ground,

Re-emphasizing the importance of further implementation of its resolution 47/160 to rehabilitate basic social and economic services throughout the country,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General,[4]

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his continued and tireless efforts to mobilize assistance for the Somali people;

2. *Encourages* the further implementation of its resolution 47/160 to rehabilitate basic social and economic services throughout Somalia;

3. *Reiterates its full support* for the peace process sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the efforts of the Technical Committee coordinated by Kenya, and invites the Intergovernmental Authority and its member States to continue their efforts to promote national reconciliation in Somalia;

[4] A/57/180 and S/2002/1201.

4. *Welcomes* the Declaration on Cessation of Hostilities and the Structures and Principles of the Somalia National Reconciliation Process,[3] and other agreements reached thus far in Eldoret as an important step towards the overriding objective of ending the violence affecting and the suffering of the Somali people, recognizes that they provide new and significant opportunities for the solution of the Somali crisis, and calls upon all the Somali parties to make the most of the current momentum and to do everything in their power to ensure that the conference continues its work and its success;

5. *Also welcomes* the strong support of the United Nations, the African Union, the League of Arab States, the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and its Partners Forum, the Movement of Non-Aligned States and others for their positive contribution to the peace process in Somalia, and appeals to all countries and the international organizations to continue to exercise their influence to support the peace conference and to consolidate the reconciliation process;

6. *Calls upon* all Somali parties, including the Transitional National Government, individuals, political leaders and factions in Somalia, to respect the security and safety of the personnel of the United Nations, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations and to guarantee their complete freedom of movement and safe access throughout Somalia, and welcomes the commitment taken in that respect by all Somali parties at the Eldoret conference;

7. *Welcomes* the strategy of the United Nations focusing on the implementation of community-based interventions aimed at rebuilding local infrastructures and increasing the self-reliance of the local population, and the ongoing efforts by the United Nations agencies, their Somali counterparts and their partner organizations to establish and maintain close coordination and cooperation mechanisms available for the implementation of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes;

8. *Recognizes* that a comprehensive programme of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of militias is a condition for sustainable peace and stability in Somalia;

9. *Notes* the incremental and prioritized approach of the United Nations system to addressing the continuing crisis and needs in Somalia while maintaining long-term commitments to rehabilitation, recovery and development activities;

10. *Urges* the international community to provide as a matter of urgency humanitarian assistance and relief to the Somali people to alleviate in particular the consequences of the prevailing drought;

11. *Emphasizes* the principle that the Somali people have the primary responsibility for their own development and for the sustainability of rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance programmes, and reaffirms the importance it attaches to the creation of a workable arrangement for collaboration between the United Nations system and its partner organizations and their Somali counterparts for the effective creation of rehabilitation and development activities in those parts of the country in which peace and security prevail;

12. *Urges* all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to continue to implement further its resolution 47/160 in order to assist the Somali people in embarking on the rehabilitation of basic social and economic services, as well as institution-building aimed at the restoration of structures of civil governance at all levels in all parts of the country in which peace and security prevail;

13. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize international humanitarian, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance for Somalia;

14. *Calls upon* the international community to provide continuing and increased assistance in response to the United Nations 2003 Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance for Somalia;

15. *Commends* the Secretary-General for the establishment of the Trust Fund for Peace-Building in Somalia, welcomes the contributions made thus far to the Fund, and appeals to Member States to contribute to it;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation in Somalia, to take all necessary and practicable measures for the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

75th plenary meeting
16 December 2002

United Nations A/RES/57/155

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 March 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 21

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.66 and Add.1)*]

57/155. Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 on strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 53/87 of 7 December 1998, 54/192 of 17 December 1999, 55/175 of 19 December 2000 and 56/217 of 21 December 2001 on safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, as well as resolutions 52/167 of 16 December 1997 on safety and security of humanitarian personnel and 52/126 of 12 December 1997 on protection of United Nations personnel, and Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/32 of 26 July 2002,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict[1] and of Security Council resolutions 1265 (1999) of 17 September 1999 and 1296 (2000) of 19 April 2000 and the recommendations made therein, as well as the statements by the President of the Council of 30 November 1999, on the role of the Council in the prevention of armed conflicts,[2] 13 January 2000, on humanitarian assistance to refugees in Africa,[3] 9 February 2000, on protection of United Nations personnel, its associated personnel and humanitarian personnel in conflict zones,[4] 9 March 2000, on humanitarian aspects of issues before the Council,[5] and 15 March 2002, on the aide memoire for the consideration of issues pertaining to the protection of civilians in armed conflict,[6] and noting in that context the range of views expressed during all open debates of the Council on these issues,

[1] S/2001/331 and S/2002/1300.

[2] S/PRST/1999/34.

[3] S/PRST/2000/1.

[4] S/PRST/2000/4.

[5] S/PRST/2000/7.

[6] S/PRST/2002/6.

Taking note also of the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations,[7] as well as the report of the Special Committee[8] on the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations[9] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the report of the Panel,[10]

Reaffirming the need to promote and ensure respect for the principles and rules of international humanitarian law,

Deeply concerned by the growing number of complex humanitarian emergencies in the past few years, in particular in armed conflicts and in post-conflict situations, which have dramatically increased the loss of human lives, in particular of civilians, the suffering of victims, flows of refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as material destruction, which disrupt the development efforts of the countries affected, in particular those of developing countries,

Concerned by the increasingly difficult context in which humanitarian assistance takes place in some areas, in particular the continuous erosion, in many cases, of respect for the principles and rules of international humanitarian law,

Deeply concerned by the dangers and security risks faced by humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel at the field level, and mindful of the need to improve the current security management system in order to improve their safety and security,

Expressing profound regret at the deaths of all international and national humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel who were involved in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and strongly deploring the rising toll of casualties among such personnel in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflicts and in post-conflict situations,

Strongly condemning acts of murder and other forms of violence, rape and sexual assault, intimidation, armed robbery, abduction, hostage-taking, kidnapping, harassment and illegal arrest and detention to which those participating in humanitarian operations are increasingly exposed, as well as attacks on humanitarian convoys and acts of destruction and looting of their property,

Strongly condemning also all incidents in many parts of the world in which humanitarian personnel have been deliberately targeted,

Expressing concern that the occurrence of attacks and threats against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel is a factor that increasingly restricts the ability of the Organization to provide assistance and protection to civilians in fulfilment of its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming that ensuring the safety and security of United Nations personnel constitutes an underlying duty of the Organization, which must be based on a necessary cost-sharing arrangement with the relevant agencies, funds and programmes within the United Nations system,

---

[7] A/55/1024 and Corr.1.

[8] A/C.4/55/6.

[9] See A/55/305-S/2000/809.

[10] A/55/502.

Recalling that primary responsibility under international law for the security and protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel lies with the Government hosting a United Nations operation conducted under the Charter or its agreements with relevant organizations,

Urging all other parties involved in armed conflicts, in compliance with international humanitarian law, in particular their obligations under the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[11] and the obligations applicable to them under the Additional Protocols thereto, of 8 June 1977,[12] to ensure the security and protection of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel,

Recalling the inclusion of attacks intentionally directed against personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter as a war crime in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which was adopted on 17 July 1998 and entered into force on 1 July 2002,[13] and noting the role that the Court could play in appropriate cases in bringing to justice those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law,

Welcoming the fact that the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, which entered into force on 15 January 1999,[14] has been ratified or acceded to by sixty-three States as at the present date,

Mindful of the need to promote universality of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,

Reaffirming the fundamental requirement that appropriate modalities for the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel be incorporated into all new and ongoing United Nations field operations, and welcoming in that regard the development of minimum operating security standards,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations system to develop higher aviation safety and security standards in humanitarian and peacekeeping missions,

Increasingly concerned at the need to ensure adequate levels of safety and security for United Nations personnel and humanitarian personnel and a culture of accountability at all levels, from the highest to the lowest, throughout the United Nations system,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on a framework for accountability for the United Nations field security management system,[15] in which a new mechanism to ensure accountability and responsibility in the area of field security is introduced,

Commending the recent efforts by the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes aimed at the improvement of security management and training of their personnel,

---

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[12] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[13] See *Official Records of the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, Rome, 15 June–17 July 1998*, vol. I: *Final documents* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.I.5), sect. A.

[14] Resolution 49/59, annex.

[15] A/57/365.

Commending also the courage and commitment of those who take part, often at great personal risk, in humanitarian operations, especially of locally recruited staff,

Guided by the relevant provisions on protection contained in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946,[16] the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947,[17] the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949[18] and the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions, and Amended Protocol II of 3 May 1996[19] to the Convention on Prohibitions and Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects of 10 October 1980,[20]

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[21]

2. *Urges* all States to take the necessary measures to ensure the full and effective implementation of the relevant principles and rules of international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as the relevant provisions of human rights and refugee law related to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel;

3. *Also urges* all States to take the necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel and to respect and ensure respect for the inviolability of United Nations premises, which are essential to the continuation and successful implementation of United Nations operations;

4. *Calls upon* all other parties involved in armed conflicts, in compliance with international humanitarian law, in particular their obligations under the 1949 Geneva Conventions[11] and the obligations applicable to them under the Additional Protocols thereto,[12] to ensure the safety and protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel, to refrain from abducting or detaining them in violation of their immunity under relevant conventions referred to in the present resolution and applicable international humanitarian law, and speedily to release, without harm, any abductee or detainee;

5. *Calls upon* all Governments and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflicts and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel in order to allow them to perform efficiently their task of assisting the affected civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

---

[16] Resolution 22 A (I).

[17] Resolution 179 (II).

[18] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[19] CCW/CONF.I/16(Part I), annex B.

[20] See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 5, 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII.

[21] A/57/300.

6. *Strongly condemns* any act or failure to act, contrary to international law, which obstructs or prevents humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel from discharging their humanitarian functions, or which entails being subjected to threats, the use of force or physical attack, frequently resulting in injury or death, and affirms the need to hold accountable those who commit such acts and, for that purpose, the need to enact national legislation, as appropriate;

7. *Expresses deep concern* that over the past decade, threats against the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel have escalated at an unprecedented rate and that perpetrators of acts of violence seemingly operate with impunity;

8. *Urges* all States to take stronger actions to ensure that any threat or act of violence committed against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel on their territory is investigated fully and to ensure that the perpetrators of such acts are brought to justice in accordance with international law and national law;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure full respect for the human rights, privileges and immunities of United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation and to continue to consider ways and means in which to strengthen the protection of United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation, notably by seeking the inclusion, in negotiations of headquarter and other mission agreements concerning United Nations and its associated personnel, of the applicable conditions contained in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,[16] the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies[17] and the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel;[14]

10. *Emphasizes* the importance of paying special attention to the safety and security of United Nations and its associated personnel engaged in United Nations peacekeeping and peace-building operations;

11. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General continue to seek the inclusion of, and that host countries include, key provisions of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, among others, those regarding the prevention of attacks against members of the operation, the establishment of such attacks as crimes punishable by law and the prosecution or extradition of offenders, in future as well as, if necessary, in existing status-of-forces, status-of-mission and host country agreements negotiated between the United Nations and those countries, mindful of the importance of the timely conclusion of such agreements;

12. *Calls upon* all States to provide adequate and prompt information in the event of arrest or detention of humanitarian personnel or United Nations and its associated personnel, to afford them the necessary medical assistance and to allow independent medical teams to visit and examine the health of those detained, and urges them to take the necessary measures to ensure the speedy release of United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation who have been arrested or detained in violation of their immunity, in accordance with the relevant conventions referred to in the present resolution and applicable international humanitarian law;

13. *Encourages* all States to become parties to and respect fully their obligations under the relevant international instruments, including the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel;

14. *Calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;[13]

15. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel to observe and respect the national laws of the country in which they are operating, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure that United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation are properly informed about the conditions under which they are called upon to operate, including relevant customs and traditions in the host country, and the standards that they are required to meet, including those contained in relevant domestic and international law, and that adequate training in security, human rights and international humanitarian law is provided so as to enhance their security and effectiveness in accomplishing their functions, and reaffirms the necessity for all other humanitarian organizations to provide their personnel with similar support;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure that United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations humanitarian assistance operation are properly informed about and operate in conformity with relevant codes of conduct, including the core principles of conduct defined by the Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises set up within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

18. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures, falling within his responsibilities, to ensure that security matters are an integral part of the planning for existing and newly mandated United Nations operations and that such precautions extend to all United Nations and its associated personnel;

19. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator to continue to play a central role in promoting increased cooperation and collaboration among agencies, funds and programmes in the planning and implementation of measures aimed at improving staff security training and awareness;

20. *Emphasizes* the need to give further consideration to the safety and security of locally recruited humanitarian personnel, who account for the majority of casualties;

21. *Stresses* the need to ensure that all United Nations staff members receive adequate security training, including physical and psychological training, prior to their deployment to the field, the need to attach a high priority to the improvement of stress and trauma counselling services available to United Nations staff members, including through the implementation of a comprehensive security and stress and trauma management training, support and assistance programme for United Nations staff throughout the system, before, during and after missions, and the need to make available to the Secretary-General the means for that purpose;

22. *Underlines* the need to allocate adequate and predictable resources to the safety and security of United Nations personnel, including through the Consolidated

Appeals Process, and encourages all States to contribute to the Trust Fund for Security of Staff Members of the United Nations System;

23. *Welcomes* the appointment of a full-time United Nations Security Coordinator at the level of Assistant Secretary-General, and reaffirms the need to further strengthen security coordination and management and to sustain the initiatives aimed at increasing the efficacy of the security management system;

24. *Also welcomes* the establishment of an Inter-Agency Security Management Network, and encourages all relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to continue to participate at an appropriate level;

25. *Recognizes* the need for a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations, both at the headquarters and the field levels, and requests the United Nations system, as well as Member States, to take all appropriate measures to that end;

26. *Also recognizes* the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation, both at the headquarters and the field levels, between the United Nations security management system and non-governmental organizations on matters relating to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel, with a view to addressing mutual security concerns in the field;

27. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work being done by the Ad Hoc Committee, established in accordance with resolution 56/89 of 12 December 2001 and open to all Member States or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to consider the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report on measures to strengthen and enhance the protective legal regime for United Nations and its associated personnel;[22]

28. *Calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to and to respect fully their obligations under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, which have been ratified so far by one hundred and forty-six States and one hundred and seven States, respectively;

29. *Recalls* the essential role of telecommunication resources in facilitating the safety of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and its associated personnel, calls upon States to consider signing and ratifying the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations of 18 June 1998, and encourages them, pending the entry into force of the Convention, to facilitate and expedite, consistent with their national laws and regulations, the use of communications equipment in such operations, and emphasizes the importance of States facilitating communications, inter alia, through limiting and, whenever possible, lifting the restrictions placed on the use of communications equipment by United Nations and its associated personnel;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-eighth session a comprehensive and updated report on the safety and security situation of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel and on the implementation of the present resolution, including the progress made by the Secretary-General in pursuing accountability and assessing responsibility for all

[22] See A/55/637.

individual security incidents that involve United Nations and its associated personnel at all levels throughout the United Nations system, as well as an account of the measures taken by Governments and the United Nations to prevent and respond to such incidents, also taking into account the information requested from the Secretary-General in resolution 57/28 of 19 November 2002.

75th plenary meeting
16 December 2002

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 March 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 22 (*d*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.23/Rev.1 and Add.1)*]

57/156. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Agreement between the Council of Europe and the Secretariat of the United Nations signed on 15 December 1951 and the Arrangement on Cooperation and Liaison between the secretariats of the United Nations and the Council of Europe of 19 November 1971,

Acknowledging the contribution of the Council of Europe to the protection and strengthening of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the protection of national minorities, and the rule of law on the European continent, including its activities against racism and intolerance, the promotion of gender equality, social development and a common cultural heritage,

Acknowledging also that, with its significant expertise in the field of human rights, democratic institutions and the rule of law, the Council of Europe is contributing to conflict prevention, confidence-building and long-term post-conflict peace-building through political, legal and institutional reform,

Stressing the importance of adherence to the standards and principles of the Council of Europe and its contribution to the solution of conflicts throughout the whole of Europe,

Acknowledging the contribution of the Council of Europe to the development of international law, inter alia, international criminal law,

Noting the increasing openness of the Council of Europe, through its legal instruments, to the participation of States of other regions,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the ongoing fruitful cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and its agencies and the Council of Europe, both at the level of headquarters and in the field;

[1] A/57/225.

3. *Welcomes* the further development of close cooperation between the Council of Europe, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Economic Commission for Europe;

4. *Notes* the role the Council of Europe has played in facilitating the entry into force of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court[2] and the readiness of the Council to provide its member States with the appropriate assistance with a view to them becoming parties to and implementing the Rome Statute;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contribution of the Council of Europe to the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001,[3] including the follow-up action taken by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance;

6. *Notes* the opening for signature on 3 May 2002 in Vilnius of Protocol No. 13 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,[4] concerning the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* for the substantial contribution of the Council of Europe to the special session of the General Assembly on children, held from 8 to 10 May 2002, and notes the adoption by the Council of the European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights,[5] which entered into force in 2000;

8. *Also expresses its appreciation* for the contributions of the Council of Europe to the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and particularly to its follow-up process, through activities involving Governments, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities and civil society organizations, aimed at turning the commitments made at the Conference into specific actions;

9. *Further expresses its appreciation* for the substantial contribution of the Council of Europe to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, as well as its contributions to the follow-up work, for example, concerning education for sustainable development, carried out by its North-South Centre;

10. *Commends strongly* the contribution of the Council of Europe to international action against terrorism, welcomes the work of the Council's Multidisciplinary Group on International Action against Terrorism aimed, inter alia, at strengthening legal cooperation in the fight against terrorism, and in this context welcomes the approval on 7 November 2002 by the Committee of Ministers at its one hundred and eleventh session of the content of the draft protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism[6] which was opened for signature in 1977;

---

[2] *Official Records of the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, Rome, 15 June–17 July 1998*, vol. I: *Final documents* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.I.5), sect. A.

[3] See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

[4] *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments*, vol. II: *Regional Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.XIV.1), sect. B, No. 8.

[5] Ibid., sect. B, No. 35.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1137, No. 17828.

11. *Welcomes* the assessment made by the Committee of Ministers at its one hundred and eleventh session on each of the three cornerstones it had defined in 2001 for the contribution of the Council of Europe to United Nations-led international action against terrorism, namely intensifying legal cooperation to combat terrorism, safeguarding fundamental values and investing in democracy;

12. *Commends* the Council of Europe for its contribution to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, and takes note in this context of the Council of Europe's Guidelines on Human Rights and the Fight against Terrorism, adopted by its Committee of Ministers on 11 July 2002[7] and referred to in the addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism;[8]

13. *Welcomes* the accession to the Council of Europe of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 24 April 2002, and expresses its appreciation for the cooperation and assistance the Council extends to this country in order to facilitate its compliance with Council standards of democracy, human rights and the rule of law;

14. *Takes note* of Opinion No. 239 adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 24 September 2002, in which the Assembly recommended that the Committee of Ministers, on the basis of a series of commitments accepted by the highest Yugoslav authorities, invite the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to become a member of the Council as soon as the constitutional Charter had been adopted by the Parliaments of Serbia and Montenegro;

15. *Notes* that the Ministers of the forty-four member States, at the one hundred and eleventh session, reiterated their common will to see the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia become a member of the Council of Europe, while at the same time regretting that circumstances at present did not yet permit the adoption of an official invitation to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to join the Council;

16. *Welcomes* the ongoing participation of the Council of Europe in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 and its cooperation with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, and commends the role of the Council of Europe in the development of democratic institutions, inter alia, in respect of the decentralization process, human rights protection and the rule of law in accordance with the standards of the Council of Europe;

17. *Commends* the role of the Council of Europe with regard to the electoral process in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in preparation for the municipal elections which were held on 26 October 2002;

18. *Welcomes* the substantial contribution of the Council of Europe to the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, in particular in the fields of democratization, local democracy, human rights and the rule of law, as well as cross-border cooperation and the fight against corruption, organized crime and money-laundering;

19. *Commends* the wide-ranging efforts of the Council of Europe to foster peace and stability in South-Eastern Europe;

---

[7] A/57/313, annex I.

[8] A/57/183/Add.1.

20. *Welcomes* the Vilnius Declaration on Regional Cooperation and the Consolidation of Democratic Stability in Greater Europe, adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 3 May 2002,[9] and the efforts of the Council to promote cooperation among the regional organizations, initiatives and processes in Europe and between them and the United Nations and other international organizations;

21. *Commends* the work of the Council of Europe in relation to the protection of national minorities, in particular the monitoring by the Committee of Ministers of the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities;[10]

22. *Reiterates its appreciation* for the active role of the Council of Europe in the tripartite meetings between the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue exploring, with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, possibilities for further enhancement of cooperation, information exchange and coordination between the United Nations and the Council;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe in implementation of the present resolution.

75th plenary meeting
16 December 2002

---

[9] See A/56/942, annex II.

[10] *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments*, vol. II: *Regional Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.XIV.1), sect. B, No. 34.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 March 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 22 (*n*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.55/Rev.1 and Add.1)*]

57/157. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/15 of 3 November 2000 relating to the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States,[1]

Recalling that the purposes of the United Nations are, inter alia, to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends,

Recalling also that the Charter of the Organization of American States reaffirms these purposes and principles and provides that that organization is a regional agency under the terms of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling further its resolutions 47/20 A of 24 November 1992, 47/20 B of 20 April 1993, 48/27 B of 8 July 1994, 49/5 of 21 October 1994, 49/27 B of 12 July 1995, 50/86 B of 3 April 1996, 51/4 of 24 October 1996 and 53/9 of 22 October 1998,

Taking account of the Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City, Canada, from 20 to 22 April 2001,

Noting that the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti completed its mandate in March 2001,

Aware of the increasing cooperation between bodies of the inter-American system for the protection of human rights and those pertaining to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights,

---

[1] A/57/267.

Noting with grave concern the spread of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic in the region and the need for increased financial resources and affordable essential drugs,

Noting that the General Assembly of the Organization of American States has agreed to convene a special conference on security in Mexico City in May 2003,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States[1] and his continuing efforts to strengthen that cooperation;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Organization of American States Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti commenced operations in June 2002 and that the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala continues to collaborate with the Organization of American States on its thematic projects;

3. *Recognizes* the work of the Organization of American States towards the promotion and the protection of democracy in the Americas, in the field of regional cooperation and in connection with its task of coordination with the United Nations;

4. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Office of the Regional Adviser to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Santiago on 1 November 2001;

5. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen cooperation with inter-American institutions in various fields, including hemispheric integration, statistics, women and development;

6. *Recommends* that a general meeting of representatives of the United Nations system and of the Organization of American States be held in 2003 for the continued review and appraisal of cooperation programmes and of other matters to be mutually decided upon;

7. *Expresses its satisfaction* at the exchange with the Organization of American States of information and substantive reports, including reports on the advancement in the status of women, on matters relating to youth and on the eradication of poverty;

8. *Emphasizes* that the cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States should be undertaken in accordance with their respective mandates, scope and composition and be suited to each specific situation, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States"

75th plenary meeting
16 December 2002